

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 113756  
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CPR-01  
EUR-12 /067 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON:DAM  
APPROVED BY NEA:HNSAUNDERS  
EA/PRCM:HTHAYER (DRAFT)  
NEA - PLANDE

-----020187 041906Z /72

O 041852Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 113756

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, CH, AF

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT

1. YOU SHOULD INFORM CHINESE GOVERNMENT AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT WE PLAN TO PRESENT A NOTE ON MAY 6 TO THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT STATING THAT IT IS OUR INTENTION TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT. WE WANTED THE PRC TO KNOW OF OUR PLANS PROMPTLY.
2. THE NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN APPEARS TO BE IN CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY AND TERRITORY OF AFGHANISTAN. WE BELIEVE THAT TO DELAY THE PRESENTATION OF OUR NOTE COULD HANDICAP US IN ESTABLISHING CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH THE NEW REGIME.

3. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM THE CHINESE THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT MOST WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND VERY PROBABLY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 113756

IRAN AND PAKISTAN WILL BE TAKING SIMILAR ACTION ON OR ABOUT MAY 6.

4. YOU MAY ALSO PROVIDE OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION. THE COUP APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PLANNED AND LED BY CIVILIANS AND MILITARY OFFICERS DRAWN FROM THE KHALQ PARTY (PRO-SOVIET AFGHAN PARTY). THE NEW PRESIDENT, VICE

PRESIDENT, AND MAJORITY OF THE CABINET ARE MEMBERS OF OR

CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE KHALQ PARTY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS ANY SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP. WE ARE NOT LABELING OR CHARACTERIZING THE NEW REGIME UNTIL WE HAVE A CLEARER FIX ON THEIR POLICIES AND INTENTIONS. AFGHANISTAN HAS A LONG TRADITION OF INDEPENDENCE AND IT IS PERHAPS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A JUDGMENT TO WHAT EXTENT THE LEADERSHIP IS NATIONALIST AND TO WHAT EXTENT PRO-SOVIET.

5. WE WOULD WELCOME THE CHINESE ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REGION.  
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RECOGNITION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, JUNTA, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** RECOGNITION OF NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, CH, AF  
**To:** PEKING  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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